METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR INDICATION OF LAST DATA BUFFER OF A FRAME PACKET IN A NETWORK PROCESSOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and structure for determining when a frame of information comprised of one or more buffers of data being transmitted in a network processor has completed transmission is provided. The network processor includes a plurality of control blocks, one for each data buffer, each containing control information to link one buffer to another for transmission. Each of the control blocks has a last bit feature which is a single bit and indicates when the data buffer having the last bit is transmitted. This last bit feature is a bit which can be set to either zero or one. The last bit feature is in a first position when an additional data buffer is to be chained to a previous data buffer indicating an additional data buffer is to be transmitted and a second position when no additional data buffer is to be chained to a previous data buffer. The position of the last bit feature is communicated to the network processor to indicate whether the transmission of a particular frame is ended and a new frame is to be transmitted.